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Montana Educators' Institute: Formative Assessment

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is co-sponsoring the Montana Educator's Institute (MEI) June 15-17, 2010, at the Helena Gateway Center. The conference will focus on formative assessment with Dr. James Popham and Dr. Dan Mulligan. Dr. Popham will provide attendees with in-depth knowledge regarding formative assessment practices. Dr. Mulligan will be assisting attendees with implementation of the formative assessment practices learned from Dr. Popham. Attendees will have the opportunity to work with the OPI Curriculum Specialists, as well as other facilitators, in developing formative assessment tools relative to their teaching assignment.

To register for the conference, go to: www.mtascd.org

OPI Contact: Kelly Glass, kglass@mt.gov, (406)444-0716

Recommend an Outstanding Educator

Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau is seeking recommendations of outstanding educators for the Superintendent's Talent Pool.

The Superintendent's Talent Pool is a list of K-12 Montana educators recommended to the Office of Public Instruction as outstanding teachers who have demonstrated exceptional instructional ability, have an inspiring presence, and exhibit professional leadership. Members of the Superintendent's Talent Pool may be considered for placement on advisory boards and task forces, as well as special recognition programs.

Nominations must be confidential and the person being nominated must not know they are being considered.

Recommendations should be made using the Talent Pool Recommendation Form, which allows for online entry. To fill out a form, visit

<http://opi.mt.gov/TalentPool/Index.html>. Forms can also be printed and sent to Faith Moldan, Superintendent's Office, Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501 or faxed to 444-2893. The deadline for recommendations is **May 31, 2010**.

The Content Standards Informer (CSI) will be distributed the first Friday of each month through the Content Standards Informer Listserv. If you would like to receive the CSI each month please sign up for the listserv at:

<http://lists.opi.mt.gov/mailman/listinfo/contentstandardsinformer>

Qwest Foundation Grant	<p>The Qwest Foundation has again allocated \$50,000 for grants to be awarded to Montana K-12 Educators who demonstrate innovative uses of technology in the classroom. The funds will be disbursed to local teachers or schools on a competitive basis. The maximum grant award will be \$7,500 per application. Funds will be available during the 2010-2011 academic school year.</p> <p>The purposes of this grant are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize Montana K-12 Educators who will use technology or training in innovative ways in the classroom to improve student performance. • Increase the use of technology in the classroom by sharing proven methods of how teachers are using technology to improve student performance. • Improve teaching and leadership skills of educators. <p>The grant application process will be administered by a partnership of Montana ACTE and Qwest. The application is available on the Montana ACTE Web site at www.montanaacte.org or more directly at http://www.montanaacte.org/documents/2010_Qwest_App.doc</p> <p>The deadline for application is July 2, 2010.</p>
Math Ignite	<p>One of the most exciting and energizing sessions I attended during the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM) national meeting was a Math Ignite. Ignite is fast-paced, fun, thought-provoking, social, local, global. It's a high-energy program of five-minute talks by people who have ideas—and the guts to get onstage and share them. I encourage you to take the time to watch one or all of the five-minute videos that capture the powerful messages from Cathy Seeley, Steve Leinwand, and seven others. In fact, I bet you can't just watch one. After watching the high school teacher, ask yourself if you are teaching students to be a <i>Hons</i>. http://www.keypress.com/x25196.xml</p> <p>July 8 the OPI curriculum specialists will be presenting an Education Ignite which we plan to video stream and post on the OPI Content Standards Web page. Let me know if you plan to do an Ignite.</p> <p>OPI Contact: Jean Howard, (406) 444-0706, jhoward@mt.gov</p>
Montana Reading and Instructional Institute	<p>The 2010 Montana Reading and Instructional Institute is set for August 2-4, 2010. This year's conference will take place in Missoula, Montana at the Hilton Garden Inn. This year's conference offers strands in Early Childhood, Grades K-3, Grades 4-9, and Rtl. Register early (by June 1st)-first 100 to register receive a free reading resource book! Session attendance is limited, so register soon. Conference Registration Fee is \$180.</p> <p>Conference Link: https://toto.msu.montana.edu/cs/mri2010</p>
Literacy Resources for Parents	<p>Looking for resources to share with parents on how they can help their Kindergartners learn to read? Follow the link to the National Institute for Literacy for tips and tricks! http://www.nifl.gov/publications/publications.html</p> <p>OPI Contact: Terri Barclay, (406) 444-0753, tbarclay2@mt.gov</p>

Young Native Writers Essay Contest	<p>The <i>Young Native Writers Essay Contest</i> is a writing contest for Native American high school students and is designed to encourage young Native Americans to think about the critical issues impacting their tribal communities today. More information can be found on the Holland and Knight Web site: http://nativewriters.hklaw.com/.</p>
Communication Arts Essential Learning Expectations	<p>The Communication Arts Essential Learning Expectations group will be meeting again in Helena at the end of May to complete its work. The dedicated team of K-12 Montana educators has worked tirelessly creating a grade by grade progression of knowledge and skills based on the 2010 Montana Communication Arts Content Standards. The finishing touches should be completed by the end of June and the document will be ready for districts to use as guidance as they revise and review curriculum.</p>
Montana State Reading Conference	<p>The Montana State Reading Conference is scheduled to be held October 21-22 in Great Falls at the Best Western Heritage Inn. The call for proposals to present is available on the Montana State Council Web site: http://www.montanareads.org/.</p>
National Common Core State Standards Presentation and Survey	<p>The Office of Public Instruction invites you to learn more about the National Common Core State Standards Initiative through an online presentation. The presentation provides information on Montana's involvement in the Common Core Initiative and the content and structure of the Common Core Standards document http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p16363458/ Link to common core documents http://www.corestandards.org/ Please take time to give your input on the Common Core Standards by completing a survey found on the Communication Arts Web page http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/CommArts/index.html or the Mathematics Web page http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/math/.</p> <p>OPI Contact: Kris Goyins, (406) 444-0729, kgoyins@mt.gov</p>

**Opportunity for
Summer Study in
Yellowstone**

Ecology Project International (EPI) invites high school teachers and their students to participate in their Yellowstone Wildlife Ecology Program this summer. The seven-day course gives students the chance to assist the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy in different wildlife monitoring projects in and around Yellowstone National Park. EPI instructors lead all activities in addition to handling all logistics and supervision. Teachers who bring at least six students can participate for free. The following course dates are available: June 12 – June 18, July 10 – July 16, July 17 – July 23, and July 24 – July 30. Students can enroll for any of the courses on a first-come, first-serve basis. Teachers interested in bringing a group of students can either participate in the courses above, or request additional course dates from EPI. Thanks to a generous grant from the National Forest Foundation, the tuition for students in Montana has been reduced by \$200. Applications are available online: http://www.ecologyproject.org/get_involved/enroll_now/ Visit EPI's Web site for more details http://www.ecologyproject.org/promo/yellowstone_wildlife_ecology_program/ or contact Joshua Klaus, Director of Academic Programs by e-mail, josh@ecologyproject.org, or by phone, (406)721-8784.

**NASA K-8 Educator
Workshop**

You're invited to participate in the NASA Beginning Engineering, Science and Technology K-8 Educator Workshop. The workshop is offered through a blended model of learning. On August 19th participants will complete an eight-hour session in Great Falls or via videoconference across the state. The workshop also consists of two online sessions offered through Elluminate, an online communication tool. These are 30-minute sessions: one August 16 at 7:00 p.m.; the follow-up is August 23, 7:00 p.m. The NASA BEST program was developed by a team from the NASA Space Flight Center's Office of Education in support of NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD). It is designed to teach students the Engineering Design Process. The Engineering Design Process is a series of steps that engineers use to guide them as they solve problems. The emphasis is for students to understand that engineers must "imagine and plan" before they begin to build and experiment. ESMD serves as a stepping stone for future exploration of Mars and other destinations. For information or to register contact Kay Fladstol, VisionNet, by telephone, (406) 750-4379, or by e-mail, kayfladstol@vision.net.

OPI Contact: Katie Burke, (406) 444-3557, kburke@mt.gov

**Call for Montana
Educators to Participate
in Focus Group**

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is calling for Montana educators to participate in a focus group that will provide feedback on the draft performance rubrics that have been developed for science, technology, and information literacy/library media. This feedback will provide information to guide OPI's work on the rollout of the rubrics. Educators can utilize these rubrics to assess student success in meeting the Montana Essential Learning Expectations (ELE), benchmarks and content standards. The focus group will meet in Helena on June 18, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. You are encouraged to nominate others and/or yourself for participation in the focus group. Participants traveling from outside Helena will be reimbursed at the state rate for travel, lodging and meals not included with the meeting. Please submit nominations to Katie Burke, Science Curriculum Specialist, by e-mail, kburke@mt.gov. In the e-mail please provide the following information regarding the nominee:

1. Name;
2. E-mail (please make sure it is an e-mail that is checked during the summer);
3. School district the nominee represents and current role;
4. Content Area(s) of Expertise;
5. Any additional areas of expertise (such as gifted and talented, limited English proficient, special education, Indian Education for All); and
6. Brief description of experience in using rubrics to evaluate student performance.

**Call for Montana
Educators to Participate
in Performance Rubric
Pilot**

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is calling for Montana educators to participate in a pilot of the Montana Performance Rubrics in Science, Technology and Information Literacy/Library Media. Participants in the pilot will be expected to pilot these classroom level assessment tools in their classroom during the 2010-2011 school year. The pilot will kick off with a required two-day training session scheduled for August 10-11, 2010, in Helena. At the two-day training, participants in the pilot will be provided professional development on the implementation of the Montana Performance Rubrics in Science, Technology and Information Literacy/Library Media. Participants will also be guided through a planning process for implementation of the pilot. During the pilot participants will be expected to participate in monthly online meetings from October 2010-March 2011. The pilot will culminate in a required two-day workshop in April 2011. Participants living outside Helena will be reimbursed at the state rate for travel, lodging and meals not included with the required meetings. For more information or to receive a nomination form, contact Katie Burke by telephone, (406) 444-3114, or e-mail, kburke@mt.gov. You are encouraged to nominate yourself or others for this work. Preference will be given for teams of participants from the same school or district.

Montana AGATE 30th Anniversary Conference	<p>Montana AGATE held its 30th Anniversary Conference, April 14-16, in Billings. Keynote speakers included George Betts, Bertie Kingore, Tamara Fisher, and Karen Isaacson. Keynote handouts, slides, photos and other information are available on the AGATE Web site www.mtagate.org for the past three years of conferences.</p>
Summer Educators' Institute	<p>Consider attending the Billings Summer Educators' Institute, June 7-10 at MSU-B: www.msubillings.edu/summerinstitute. Through interaction with keynote speakers (Denise Juneau, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Martin Brokenleg, Educator & co-author of <i>Reclaiming Youth at Risk</i>, Ray Buckley, Author and Motivational Speaker and Dr. Christy Price, Educator, "The Millennial Student",) as well as highly qualified workshop presenters from multiple disciplines, participants will glean insight into their own ability to create an effective instructional model, thereby promoting academic excellence for all students. The institute will offer four full days of training in meeting the needs of advanced learners, including sessions on identification, curriculum and instruction, management and Response to Intervention.</p>
Western Montana-CSPD 13th Annual August Institute	<p>WM-CSPD 13th Annual August Institute in Missoula will be held August 11-13th. Like the Billings Institute, in-depth, hands-on trainings in programming for gifted and advanced learners will be offered. The 14th annual Edufest conference, http://www.edufest.org/, the northwest's premier summer conference on gifted education, will be held on the campus of Boise State University, July 25-30. Keynote speakers will include Dr. Jean Peterson, Dr. Terry Neu, Dr. Marcia Imbeau, Dr. Stuart Omdahl, Dr. Del Siegle, Dr. Betsy McCoach and Dr. Mary Slade. Also included are 40 week-long presentations by scholars and practitioners in the field of gifted and talented education.</p> <p>OPI Contact: Deb Poole, (406) 444-4317, dpool@mt.gov</p>